

At page 4, after the first full paragraph, please add a new centered heading as follows:

A4

Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 4, after description of Figure 4, please add a new centered heading as follows:

A5

Detailed Description of the Invention

Page 5, please delete the first full paragraph, and substitute with the following:

A6 Reference numeral 12 denotes a feeder rotor with recesses 24 whose shape is adapted to the drinking straws or the drinking straws in protective coverings. Number 54 shows the vacuum holes which upon application of vacuum hold the drinking straws to the feeder rotor 12. The feeder rotor 12 is equipped with two peripheral grooves 56a and 56b. A further circular groove 58 is located between the two other circular grooves at a height corresponding to glue band 8. A knife 14, movable radially in relation to the axis of the feeder rotor 12, serves to sever the drinking straw band 6. At the point where the knife 14 meets the feeder rotor 12 in severing the drinking straw band 6, a narrow vertically extending groove can be provided in the rotor for receiving the knife, this groove not being shown in Figure 1 for reasons of visual clarity.

Page 5, please delete the second full paragraph, and substitute with the following:

A7 Reference numerals 16a and 16b indicate pressing devices pivotally supported around an axis 19. Arrow direction 50 indicates in which direction the individual drinking straws are moved through the pressing devices 16a and 16b. The grooves 56b and 56a between the feeder rotor 12 have been chosen in regard to their dimensions such that the feeder rotor 12 can rotate without being obstructed by the pressing devices 16a and 16b which protrude into the grooves 56b and 56a.